

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 091522Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1707

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 15127

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, WB, TU, GW, GR

SUBJECT: BERLIN FLIGHTS OVER THE AEGEAN

REF: A. 75 BONN 14476 B. USBERLIN 1298

1. ACCORDING TO FONOFF (BENSCH) TURKEY AND GREECE REACHED BILATERAL AGREEMENT SEPTEMBER 1 TO PERMIT RESUMPTION OF ANKARA - ISTANBUL - ATHENS AIR TRAFFIC. AGREEMENT REPORTEDLY IS LIMITED TO AIRLINES OF GREECE AND TURKEY. WE HAVE ALSO SEEN IN INTERAVIA AIR LETTER NUMBER 8585 THAT FLIGHTS WILL RESUME LATER IN SEPTEMBER (THY DAILY AND OLYMPIC THREE TIMES WEEKLY), BUT THAT NEITHER OLYMPIC NOR THY WILL OVERFLY AEGEAN AIRSPACE. RATHER, OLYMPIC WILL OVERFLY NORTHERN GREECE AND THY WILL FLY THREE TIMES WEEKLY VIA RHODES AND FOUR TIMES WEEKLY VIA SOFIA.

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2. ALTHOUGH ROUND-ABOUT ROUTING INDICATED IN INTERAVIA

ARTICLE FOR RESUMED AIR COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY SHOWS THAT THE BASIC PROBLEM OF CONTROL OF AIRSPACE OVER THE AEGEAN REMAINS UNRESOLVED, THERE WOULD SEEM TO BE A POSSIBILITY FOR THE SOLUTION OF BERLIN - TURKEY FLIGHTS, ASSUMING THAT PERMISSION COULD BE OBTAINED FOR SUCH FLIGHTS TO USE THE SAME ROUTING PROPOSED FOR OLYMPIC.

3. IF THAT SHOULD PROVE INFEASIBLE, WE SUGGEST DEPARTMENT CONSIDER TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE MOMENTUM THAT MIGHT BE PRODUCED BY THIS IMPROVEMENT IN GREEK - TURKEY RELATIONS TO MAKE NEW APPROACHES TO THE GOG ON THE RE-OPENING OF THE AIRWAY OVER THE AEGEAN FOR FLIGHTS

FROM WEST BERLIN TO ISTANBUL. IF DEPARTMENT SHOULD DECIDE IN FAVOR OF SUCH AN ATTEMPT, WE WOULD SUGGEST CONSULTING BRITISH AND FRENCH AIR ATTACHES IN BONN WITH A VIEW TO RECOMMENDING THAT FRG TAKE UP MATTER DIRECTLY WITH GOG. WE COULD ALSO PROPOSE PARALLEL APPROACHES BY UK, US AND FRENCH IN SUPPORT OF FRG, SINCE MATTER IS OF POLITICAL IMPORTANCE TO BERLIN AIR TRAFFIC.
HILLENBRAND

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